

APPALLING DISASTER.

EXPLOSION OF THE TANK AT THE GAS WORKS.

Two Men Killed; Others Slightly Wounded—Statements of Foreman Davis and Walter T. Spears—Inquest Not Concluded.

Persons living a mile away from the town were startled yesterday morning about seven o'clock by a loud report coming from the direction of the gas house, and knowing that there had been trouble with the gas the night previous, it was feared that the trouble was there. These surmises were found to be correct, and many reached the scene of the explosion in a few minutes.

A fearful spectacle met their sight. The gasometer was a total wreck, and among the debris were the bodies of two men, Lewis Guthrie dying, and Will. Gates dead. Of the two other men engaged in work on the gasometer at the time of the accident, Walter Spears was badly burned, and Geo. W. Davis escaped miraculously with his life.

GEORGE W. DAVIS, the foreman at the works, stated to a CITIZEN reporter that a leak was discovered in the stand-pipe inside the gasometer the evening before, and that water broke in. The gas was drawn off—he believed all of it, as the gasometer was on the bottom, and was flooded.

He came up town for assistance and met WALTER SPEARS, who got a man named WILL GATES, and they all went to the works, where they were joined by LEWIS GUTHRIE, who had been employed there about a month.

They drew the water from the gasometer in order that a man might get inside to stop the leak. Mike Kelly had been engaged to make the repairs. The plates were then removed by SPEARS, and as he laid the same side all of the party leaned over and looked in the hole; as I straightened up I felt the gasometer rising, and saw a small blaze from the lantern, and jumped backward and outward. All of us were standing on the gasometer. As I fell I heard an explosion and saw the gasometer go up about thirteen feet. I arose and came around the tank, where I saw the bodies of GATES and GUTHRIE lying on the ground. GATES was dead, and GUTHRIE was slightly breathing. Both were carried to the office. GUTHRIE's body was carried home; but he ceased to breathe a few moments after leaving the yard. Davis' eyebrows were singed and his hat was covered with charred tar, showing how close he was to a frightful death.

WALTER L. SPEARS went to work last night at 9 o'clock in company with Wm. Gates and Guthrie. Was employed by Davis. Worked all night at pumping water from around tank. Had two lanterns to see how to work. About 6:40 o'clock this morning Davis ordered man-hole removed; one lantern was then on top of tank; tank was down to bottom; all three of us took off bolts of man-hole; Davis was near by. We then lifted the cover from man-hole. As we slipped cover off man-hole, the explosion occurred; I did not smell any gas. Explosion was very loud. Davis and I jumped off of tank, on south side, side nearest to man-hole. Gates and Guthrie ran across the tank and seemed to be trying to reach the house. I think they lost their presence of mind. Had they jumped as I did they would have escaped. I cannot tell what induced them to run across the tank their lives. I did not fall but retained my feet. As I sprang off of tank I felt it rising. I ran immediately across branch, then looked back and saw flame for first time. I got burned by a small flame which emerged from man hole before explosion. My injury is now very painful, my face on right side and right arm being severely burned. The hair on right side of my head is burned, also.

The tools used by the unfortunate workmen, and large fragments of the frame of the gasometer, were found scattered all over the yard.

Guthrie leaves a widow and four little ones; they live but a short distance from the scene of the accident. Gates was unmarried, and lived with his parents in the southern part of the city.

With their usual promptness the fire companies were ready, and before the fire bell had given many strokes the Hook and Ladder Company were on the scene of action, the Hose Company following almost immediately after.

Though ready for any emergency there was little that they could do, as the flames were confined to the tank. They rolled several barrels of oil and other combustibles away from the fire, thus preventing other explosions, attended to the removal of the bodies, and with their hose played on the flames until they were extinguished.

Mr. J. G. Martin, president and Messrs. Pennington and Patton, directors of the gas company, were promptly on hand, and all possible efforts made to alleviate the grief of the afflicted families.

Prompt and decisive action was also taken to enable the company to meet the demands of its patrons in as short a time as possible. Telegrams have already been sent to procure the needed machinery and such skilled workmen as may be required. The supply of gas will be stopped only for a very short time.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

CORONER W. D. HILLIARD impeached a jury of inquest consisting of Messrs. J. A. Conant, F. A. Hull, W. G. McDowell, R. A. Long, W. B. Bearden and J. N. Miller. G. W. Davis and A. G. West sworn. G. W. Davis took the stand and said: "My work is repairing, and seeing that gas is properly made. I employed Gates

and Spears last night; I was looking for Mr. McDonnell to get hose to draw water from tank; Guthrie was already at work; we first got the gas out of the gasometer; we then began drawing out water which was finished at 6 o'clock this morning; we were all near the man-hole; a lantern was burning five feet away; the cover was removed; we looked into hole, and suddenly a small flame seemed to dart out of the man-hole; the explosion occurred instantly; I had barely time to call to others to run; Spears ran on same side with me; I did not know that any one was killed for some time; I found Guthrie first; he was dead; Gates was breathing still."

Question by Mr. Hill. What was the condition of the works on yesterday?

Answer. "We had trouble in getting the gas to enter the holder; I reported this to Mr. Arthur, and he told me to have the water drawn off, and prepare for repairs to be made this morning; I did not think there was any gas in holder; I had taken every precaution to get it all out; could not account for the explosion; had drawn gas out of holder heretofore, and used same means as now; have never opened man-hole with a light burning near it; did not know of any whiskey being near us last night; no one seemed to have been drinking."

I am not superintendent or manager, but merely employed to do outside work; I never do anything without applying for instruction to Mr. Arthur or Mr. Jones.

I can only attribute the explosion to gas that exuded from the tar which had condensed on the bottom and sides of the tank, which might have risen in the gasometer as the water was drawn out.

A. G. West's testimony was not material, referring only to the position of the bodies of Gates and Guthrie; West did not perceive any sign of whiskey; he reached scene soon after explosion.

Capt. McDowell explained the construction of the tank, and the jury adjourned until Monday to procure the testimony of Spears.

FIFTY-FIRST CONGRESS.

Both Houses Adjourn Until January 6, 1890.

WASHINGTON, December 21.—SENATE.—After some routine business, Mr. Sherman moved to go into executive session. Mr. Morgan offered a resolution calling on the President of the United States for copies of all correspondence between the United States and Brazil, and of all other papers on file in the State department relating to the recent change of government of Brazil, and said that he desired to submit some remarks.

Mr. Sherman declined to yield for that purpose.

Mr. Morgan—"I regard this movement (to go into executive session) as a deliberate attempt to cut us off from any consideration of the resolution, the one debated yesterday, and, as the senator from Ohio is chairman of the committee on foreign relations, to which committee a motion has been made to refer it, I do not think that he is justified in this course of action. I propose (on his motion) to go into executive session to test the question whether or not there is a voting quorum here, because, if we are not to have any consideration on this side of the chamber, I shall insist that the other side suffer just as much by that form of tactics as we."

Mr. Sherman disclaimed the imputation, and said that if the Brazilian resolution could be debated and voted on he had not the least objection, but there was no quorum present to decide any controverted question.

Mr. Morgan—"I think that in the absence of a quorum his resolution to recognize the republic of Brazil would necessarily go over till after the holidays, but he desired that the information called for in the resolution which he now offered might be obtained for the purpose of informing the country of the situation of the Brazilian question in the State department. But he wished to submit in connection with it a statement from H. W. Hilliard, of Augusta, Ga., former minister to Brazil, which he had received from that gentleman this morning in the shape of an interview in the Augusta Chronicle, in which he sought to submit the speech of Mendonca, of Brazil, (as reported in the morning papers), in response to the toast, "America all republicans," delivered at a banquet in New York."

Mr. Sherman said that he had no objection to the reception of the resolution just offered if it were acted upon without discussion.

Mr. Morgan—"If the senator will allow me to put into the Record this communication from Mr. Hilliard, and also the statement which I will add."

Mr. Sherman—"I do not think it fair for the senator to do that. Let him put Mr. Hilliard's statement in the Record."

Mr. Morgan persisted no further, but furnished to the official reporters copies of papers containing Mr. Hilliard's statement and Mr. Mendonca's speech, and then his resolution calling for correspondence was agreed to.

Mr. Spooner offered a substitute for Mr. Morgan's resolution as to the recognition of the Brazilian republic to be referred to the committee on foreign relations. It declares that the action of the President in according diplomatic recognition to the present provisional government of Brazil, and in instructing the United States ministers to extend, on the part of this government, a cordial and formal recognition of the new republic as soon as a majority of the people of Brazil should have signified their assent to an establishment and maintenance, merited and received the unqualified approbation of congress.

Mr. Morgan suggested that there was something in Mr. Spooner's proposition "to point a moral and adorn a tale."

Mr. Call gave notice that immediately after the holiday recess he would ask the senate to take from the table the resolution offered by him for the appointment of a committee to report legislation necessary for the protection of the people in their right to homes on the public lands of the United States, in Florida and elsewhere.

Mr. Teller gave like notice in reference to his resolution for an open session of the senate.

The senate then proceeded to the consideration of the executive business, and at 2:45 adjourned till Monday, January 6th.

HOUSE.—The house was treated to a

spicy little discussion this morning between Mr. Holman, of Indiana, and Mr. Mills, of Texas. The discussion was precipitated by the statement from Mr. Carlisle, of Kentucky, to the effect that in offering the resolution yesterday for the appointment of J. R. Hill as assistant door-keeper, he had fixed the salary at \$2,000, believing that that was the salary which had always been received by the other special employe, Mr. Clancy. (Clancy has been a republican minority employe). He had learned that this was a mistake and that Clancy's salary had been \$1,500. He therefore moved to reconsider the vote by which the resolution was adopted in order that the house might determine whether it would reduce Hill's salary to \$1,500 or increase Clancy's salary to \$2,000. The vote having been reconsidered, Mr. Holman, of Indiana, moved to reduce Hill's salary to \$1,500, and he urged the necessity of preserving economy in the expenditures of the public money.

Mr. Mills said that that was the same old speech he had been listening to for the last sixteen years. Every session the house was treated to a speech on economy which was to be applied to the officers of the house and the smaller officers of the government; but whenever it came to applying economy to the expenditure of hundreds of thousands or millions of dollars, the eloquence of the gentleman was lost to the country. Could the American people be protected from excessive expenditures only by cutting down the salary of some poor fellow about the house of representatives. He had fought against reduction of the pay of the officers of the house and increase of the pay of the officers of the senate which the gentleman from Indiana, a member of the committee on appropriations had permitted to be done year after year. He believed in common with all English speaking people that the American house of representatives was the breath of the people, and he believed in maintaining its equal dignity, power and equal rights. (Applause.) If he should ever succeed in getting to the senate there would be somebody in the senate who would still feel that he was an American democrat, and that this house should be preserved in equal dignity and equal rights to the senate.

Mr. Holman said that if the gentleman intended to practice economy they must begin with the details which came before congress for consideration. The dignity of the house, had it been assailed during the last six years when Clancy had been receiving \$1,500, had the gentleman from Texas felt it necessary to originate to preserve the dignity of the house during those six years to increase the salary. If the house had been more considerate in the expenditure of public money than the senate had been, it was to the great honor and dignity of this body.

Mr. Holman's motion was agreed to by a vote of 96 to 70, and the resolution as amended, was adopted.

Mr. Cummings, of New York, presented the petition of the governor and citizens of New Jersey for the relief of Mrs. Delia Parnell. Referred.

Mr. McComas, of Maryland, from the committee on appropriations, reported the District of Columbia appropriation bill. Printed and recommitted. This is the first time in the history of the house when at the first regular session, the general appropriation bill has been reported before the holidays.

The house adopted a resolution requesting the United States treasurer to receive the cash and assets in the sergeant at arms office as a special deposit until the further order of the house. A proviso is inserted that nothing therein contained shall affect Leedom's liability. The District of Columbia appropriation bill was reported back and laid on the table for the present.

At his own request Mr. Wike, of Illinois, was relieved from duty on the committee on elections, and Mr. Wilson, of Missouri, was appointed to fill the vacancy.

The speaker then announced the standing and select committees of the house. The speaker also announced the appointment of Messrs. Mason, Cogswell, Struble, Turner, of Georgia, and Wilson, of Virginia, as a committee to investigate the ballot box forgeries under the Butterworth resolution.

Mr. Chendole, of Indiana, resigned from the membership of the committee on claims, and his resignation was accepted.

The house at 2:45 adjourned till January 6.

Verdict in the Navassa Case.

BALTIMORE, December 21.—The jury in the NAVASSA case as to the murder of Thomas N. Foster, have rendered the following verdict: Henry Jones guilty of murder in the first degree; C. O. Fisher, Ed. Smith, Chas. H. Smith, alias John Ward, Alfred Jones, alias "Texas Shorty," Edmund Jones, alias "Blue-bell," James Johnson, alias Tom Welch, Alfred Brown and Amos Lee, guilty of manslaughter. James Phillips and Moses Williams, alias "Dakota," not guilty; and not agreed as to James Tooley, George S. Key, Charles H. Davis, alias "Pompey," Steve Peters, James H. Robinson, alias "Now," Edward Woodard and Norman Wooster, alias "Juggler." George S. Key was convicted of murder on the first trial, and was only tried a second time as matter of form as accessory to the murder of Foster.

The Brazilian President Dying.

LONDON, December 21.—A private cable dispatch received here from Rio Janeiro states that marshal Deodoro de Fonseca, chief of the provisional government of Brazil, is dying. The question as to who will succeed is engaging serious attention. It is believed that the change in ministry which followed Marshal De Fonseca's death would lead to serious complications.

The World's Cotton Supply.

NEW YORK, December 21.—The total available supply of cotton for the world is 3,044,581 bales, of which 2,847,181 are American, against 2,772,535 and 2,523,035 bales, respectively, last year. Receipts at all interior towns are 204,463 bales; receipts from plantations, 296,539 bales; crop in sight 4,704,177 bales.

Supper at Weaverville College.

An elegant supper was given by the faculty of Weaverville college to the students and a number of the alumni, in the college building. About two hundred and fifty were present. Each member of the faculty was presented with a present by the students as a testimonial of their appreciation of their work during the past term. The occasion was a most enjoyable one for all who participated. The college will be closed for a week during the holidays.

W. C. T. U.

Let our W. C. T. U. member fail to attend the Anniversary meeting at the Y. M. C. A. hall to-morrow, at 4 p. m.

OUR PAST AND FUTURE.

ASHEVILLE'S BUSINESS MEN INTERVIEWED.

The Results of the Year Now Ending and the Prospects for 1890—Just Enough Despondent Ones to Show Our Future Assured.

There is a hum and a bustle, a rattle and a roar, a vim and a go about Asheville merchants which makes the visitor think but once about the scenery and climate and then turn his attention to the shop windows. Good gracious! Look at JACOB'S DRUG STORE.

That is the toughest sort of a pill to swallow. If there are not aprons, mouchoir cases, ties, and lots of fancy articles, hanging just out of the reach of some mustard plaster, which would draw them down. But there comes the proprietor himself, with jaunty step.

"Hello, old man! I see you are dealing in dry goods. The pill business must be pretty bad this year. Do you have to throw these articles in as prizes for the man who is able to take the most of your medicine without experiencing any ill effects, or are these rewards for the doctor who sends you the most prescriptions?"

"No, sir; those are the property of the ladies of the Christian church, who have put them on sale here."

"Well, if you are endorsed by the church I guess your wares must be all right, only from the clothing there one would think you spelled it w-e-a-r-s. But how has your business been during the year?"

"I can't complain. Our sales have never been larger. We have more prescription work than he can attend to, and the hardest part of the business is to find some place to invest the profits."

Mr. Jacob's statement is perhaps a little overdrawn, but constant association with doctors is not conducive to making one state a case accurately to the public. Leaving him to the arduous task of investing the profits, let us step into the store of

H. REDWOOD & CO.

There behind those counters, piled up with dry goods, clothing, boots, shoes and notions, is the man we want to see.

"How has our business been during the present year compared with that of last? We can truthfully say that our sales have increased 25 per cent. Not only that, but we are keeping a finer line of goods than ever before. Our trade has clamored for it, and we have been compelled to keep them in order to supply their wants. The increase of population has brought with it a growth in taste and style of dress."

That speaks well for a place. Where the luxuries of life are in popular demand the merchant ought to make a few dollars. As an old Greek, when asked why he was working, said, "I am working to earn money to buy food to get more strength to earn, etc." And that is what we are all doing. It takes lots of courage and nerve to keep walking through this dreary treadmill of existence. But this isn't a place for moralizing, but for more realizing. That is what we are doing in Asheville. If you don't believe it, walk into the store of

P. P. MINNAUGH.

Listen to what he says: "I deal now only in dry goods and carpets. My business has been running five months, and I have no cause to repent having opened a store in Asheville. Business is especially good considering the time I have been here. The finer lines of goods have the best sales. There is no Southern town, and I have visited them all, that can support and demands a finer quality of merchandise than Asheville. The better grades of carpets are especially in demand, owing to the great amount of building now going on. I can hardly fill the orders which I have received for furnishing entire houses with carpets. Even in this small space of time my business has grown so that I intend to use the second floor of this building for millinery and dressmaking."

Asheville seems to offer pretty good inducements for new merchants, according to Mr. Minnaugh's statements.

Now we will go to

SAWYER'S CLOTHING STORE

And see what they will say to this all-important question. They are not the men who, when a customer returned with his suit and complained of the fit, said, "Why, we have sold ten suits to various parties who saw you with those clothes," while the customer went away rejoicing and kicked himself around three blocks for not being able to appreciate a good, snug, New York fit. No, they are not the men, but they seem to sell suits, all the same, for one said: "Is business good? Well, it was an off day to-day, and yet I sold four suits of clothes myself. That isn't doing very bad, is it? I am not very sad because the business is picking up, although it did compel me to add a large line of dry goods and carpets to my present stock."

"Hello there, CITIZEN man! How are you?" And out on the sidewalk appeared Mr. Chester's beaming countenance, talking to the customers who were strolling into the store of

CHESTER & SON.

"Glad to see you, Mr. Chester. I was just after you with a shotgun in order to bag an item."

"Come in and I'll see what I can do for you. What is it you want?"

"Just tell me if that report is true about your making such large sales during the past year."

"Ha! ha!" and Mr. Chester rubbed his hands complacently. "Our business is so big we can't tell you anything about it. It averages 50 per cent. more than any other year. The sales amount to \$300 every day except Saturday, when

we take in \$600. We are keeping the largest stock we ever had before. But don't forget my hotel,

THE GRAND CENTRAL.

The number of arrivals is nearly as large in winter as in summer. The class of patronage is better and every day you will see seven or eight States represented on the register. Our receipts are 50 per cent. greater than any other winter and the number of guests have become so large that we have added to our force as caterer Capt. Sprague, who was formerly at the Round Knob hotel. I should say we are doing well. The hotel has just netted me \$35 a day during the summer. Going? Hold on a minute," and Mr. Chester returned with a handful of cigars, which made the reporter wish he could call there on a like errand every blessed day. With a cigar in his mouth and a happy, contented look in his eye, he sauntered into

B. H. COSBY'S JEWELRY STORE.

Mr. Cosby said: "I was connected with Mr. Cowan for ten years, and have been in business for myself since February two years ago. Trade has increased since I took hold of it and shows a considerable increase over last year. I have sold a great many fine watches, and in some branches of the business the fine lines have been far ahead of any other."

Having been a frequent visitor at the mayor's court, the reporter was not afraid to go into

BLANTON'S CLOTHING STORE.

It was hardly necessary to ask him whether business was increasing. Every man that has been fined by him will also find him. They will take especial pains to suit him by getting a suit from him, and it will amount to more than \$5 too, for there will be added a goodly amount of "costs." Yet they will continue to court him. He said, "I have been in business since the 1st of September. I have done a larger wholesale business than I expected, and intend to increase my stock next fall and do a bigger jobbing business than I have heretofore."

KELLY & STRACHAN,

who are plumbers, and steam and gas fitters, were next visited. They do not wear the traditional diamond pin, but they plead guilty to doing a very large and increasing business, and no one can tell how long it will be before we see something sparkling in their shirt bosom.

BROWN, GUDGER & CO.

was the next place which our reporter filled with tobacco smoke, and between the blue wreaths which floated around the store, he heard a voice saying words which carved their way through the dense clouds and pierced his ear. They were these: "Our trade is better than we ever have had. The increase has been made in the city proper. The main thing which has caused it is the fine line of ladies' dress goods, which we carry, and which has been instrumental in calling attention to our other lines."

The reporter waited for no further work, as they did not keep cigars, but backed out under the protesting canopy of the smoke and took a peep into the store of

MANN, JOHNSON & CO.

This firm deals in furniture. They stated that they had been having a pretty good business during the past year, but had remained very nearly stationary without any falling off in their trade. It certainly would seem strange if they did not hold their own in the severe competition they have to contend against with their fine line of goods. But the question awaited a great many more answers, and it was

HEERING & WEAVER

who were invited to see how the shoe would fit. They kindly put it on and said it was several sizes too small for them, and that they needed a bigger shoe to measure their business by. Mr. Heering said:

"Our business has been steadily increasing ever since we started in it three years ago. The trade we have demands not the finest quality of shoes but the best quality. They do not necessarily require a very fine shoe, but they want a good one, and we have no calls for the cheaper grades. Of course the warm weather is hurting us somewhat, but the winter is bound to come, and we will be ready for it if it turns up here next July."

It was very gratifying to learn that there would always be one place where shoes could be obtained, suitable for all kinds of weather. Lost in thought, the reporter was just about to cross to the other side of the street, when his eye caught sight of the

NEW OPERA HOUSE.

How his eyes feasted upon and devoured it, as he thought of those good times he would have when it was finished; the free passes he would work and how he would lounge back in the comfortable parquet chairs and enjoy the show, without paying a nickel. Don't say Asheville is not going ahead with a boom worse than that made by the explosion yesterday morning. What surer sign than this, when people demand something they can spend their money on. Where money is easily spent, it is easily made, and we hear that Asheville is going to have a class of theatrical performances which will repay every one to invest their money in. Well pay your money and take a seat alongside of the reporter, who doesn't intend to pay anything. Such a pleased expression flitted over his face at this thought that he determined to have it caught and fixed at once, so he hid away to

LINDSEY & BROWN,

the photographers, who have combined their forces and can make a crossgrained

citizen, who wears a continual pained expression, look like an angel with a twelve foot halo. In answer to our gentle query, he replied:

"Our business has been at least a quarter greater than the past year, and the holiday season set in we have been unable to attend to the wants of our customers. The sale of views is an important branch of our business, but we sell ten views of Asheville and its immediate vicinity, where we sell one taken elsewhere."

Then the reporter left to escape being crushed in the rush of patrons and hastened over to the

ASHEVILLE ICE & COAL COMPANY.

Here he met with neither an icy or cold reception but was told that the company had secured the sole agency for the Jellico coal and were now supplying all the manufactories in town. Their total output showed that the manufacturing industries must be increasing in size as their coal business has largely increased. Quantities of this coal are shipped to outside points by the car load. The ice industry has just been basking in the hot sun of the past few weeks and this was the only enterprise, whose proprietor did not grumble at the heat. That is a very good idea, when it becomes very cold, the coal trade just whoops her up, and when it becomes very warm, the ice industry takes the lead and makes things howl. But next door is the store of

N. J. LANCE,

who says:

"I formerly kept a store at Hot Springs, and then moved to Asheville because I thought there was a better business opening here."

The store will be opened on the first of January for the sale of general merchandise. But he is not the only new man here, for entering the handsome McAfee building, there was found the photographer gallery of

MR. J. W. CRAWFORD.

Although just starting, he seems to be well pleased with the prospects, and vainly quoted rates to the reporter, who, though he admired his work, had left his pocketbook at home.

The next place was that of

KOPF & LICHTENBERGER.

"I hear you have just started in business here," queried the reporter. "Yes, and we are agreeably surprised at the amount of trade which we have secured. We are selling goods as staple articles of which at first we only kept samples."

Not having been asked to sample anything the reporter moved on to

MITCHELL'S SHOE STORE.

"How is business?" was asked. "You don't mean to have nerve enough to ask that in this state of the weather," was the answer, and the reporter hastened onward as rapidly as if he had been assisted by a forcibly extended boot. At

PELLHAM'S DRUG STORE

every face was smiling and joyous. All said that they had done the big thing of their life, when they moved from their old quarters a short time ago, and that business was so brisk now, that they had no time to think of the business in the old quarters.

MR. MAX MARCUS

sold his stock of goods furnishing goods to Mr. C. H. Mark, on the 17th of this month. The latter gentleman will remain here until the first of January, and then will remove his goods to Ansonia, Ala., where he has a store. Mr. Marcus says that he has been in business for two years, but that the competition was too great for him to make any profit and that he thought the increase in the number of stores exceeded the growth in the population.

FULENWIDER & BRO.

is another new shoe store. They said that the business had been as good as could be expected, considering the state of the weather. According to them the people demand a better class of goods and so they have done away with the cheaper grades.

WILLIAMSON & CO.

Were interviewed and replied as follows: "The sales are better. Perhaps not greater in the total amount, but better in the class of goods sold. An artistic line of furniture is now demanded, which we could not have put on the market before. We carry double the stock we did before, and the class of goods we keep has entirely changed. A new and great demand has sprung up for fitting up houses with carpets, pictures, furniture, etc., from top to bottom."